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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

G-8 Summit will be a turning point for Middle East - Sabah
Erdogan to US for G-8 - Milliyet
Iraqi Kurdish groups ask Bush for autonomy guarantees -
Milliyet
Kurds threaten to withdraw from Iraqi government - Aksam
Kurds ask for US consulate in Erbil - Sabah
Iraqi PM: Armed militias to be dissolved - Aksam
ECHR will to review case of Abdullah Ocalan - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

G-8 to discuss Greater Middle East project - Yeni Safak
G-8 to discuss future of Middle East - Zaman
FM Gul secures Egyptian support on Cyprus, OIC - Zaman
Government prepares to open trade relations with Greek
Cyprus - Cumhuriyet
Iraqi Kurds threaten to leave government - Yeni Safak
Kurdish threat to Washington - Radikal
1,000 Iraqis killed in two months - Yeni Safak
Israeli FM: Gaza will be left to Egyptian control - Yeni
Safak
Gaza plan shakes Sharon government - Zaman
WSJ: Pentagon report gives Bush authority for torture - Yeni
Safak
License to torture for Bush - Cumhuriyet
US withdraws from Seoul - Radikal
Journalists targeted in Riyadh - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan to G-8 Summit: President Bush will seek Turkish support for his Greater Middle East (GME) Initiative, which aims to boost democracy in the region, at the G-8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia. Prime Minister Erdogan leaves for the United States on Tuesday to attend the summit. Erdogan is expected to warn against effort to impose reforms on countries in the region. Erdogan will also urge that the Palestinian issue be given priority. Turkey will decide at the summit whether to join the 'Forum for the Future,' an open dialogue framework of regional foreign ministers, "Zaman" reports. President Bush expects Erdogan to give 'strong political support' to the GME, "Cumhuriyet" writes. The paper speculates that Turkey's participation in the G-8 meeting could negatively affect Turkey's relations with the Islamic world.

Turkey may open EU Customs Union to Greek Cyprus: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said Turkey is looking for a formula for including Cyprus in its long-standing customs union (CU) with the European Union. On June 4, the EU Commission urged Ankara to apply the customs union to Greek Cyprus, which joined the EU on May 1. Sources close to the Turkish government said that trade relations with south Cyprus within the EU framework will not be equivalent to formal recognition of the Greek Cypriot state.

Greeks uneasy about OIC Istanbul Meeting: The Greek Cypriots and Greece are worried that the Organization of Islamic Conferences (OIC) will agree at a meeting in Istanbul next week to recognize the Turkish Cypriot north of the island as a "state." On Monday, Greece's FM Moliviatidis met with the ambassadors of 12 OIC members in Athens to discuss the issue. Greek Cypriot FM Yakovu said the OIC had no legitimacy on the international level, but added that a characterization of northern Cyprus as a "state" would still be perceived as important.

DEP lawmakers may be retried: Turkey's state prosecutor claimed that there were seven irregularities in the retrial of the four DEP lawmakers sentenced in 1994 to a 15-year jail sentence. The prosecutor launched an appeal to have the Kurdish ex-MPs -- Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Selim Sadak and Orhan Dogan -- released. The case is being closely followed by the EU.

Government working to reopen Halki Seminary: The MFA is working on a formula to reopen Halki Seminary under the theology department in Istanbul University. Current legislation does not allow for the reopening of the seminary as an autonomous school, so legal adjustments would be necessary. However, the Fener Patriarchate in Istanbul opposes affiliating the seminary with a Turkish theology faculty. The MFA is working on a draft that would allow for the reopening of the school before the visit of President George Bush to Turkey in late June.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Reagan; Iraq

"President Bush's Political Father"

Tamer Korkmaz wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (6/8): "It took a very long time for the US to realize that Ronald Reagan's 'star wars' project was a very costly means of blackmail against the Russians. The Reagan administration accelerated defense spending so much that the Soviet Union's economy began to stumble. Reagan not only helped bring about the end of communism by working with Gorbachev, but also expanded capitalism all over the world by working hand-in-hand with Margaret Thatcher. Reagan was the most conservative of American politicians, and the founding father of the 'neo-cons.' Reagan is also undoubtedly the 'political father' of President Bush. This has also been noted by the American press. The New York Times, for instance, referred to the 'third Reagan term' when Bush was elected."

"Reagan"

Murat Belge commented in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (6/8): "Ronald Reagan is now being presented as the man who ended the cold war. This common belief is based on a mistaken assessment. The real credit for this belongs to Carter, not Reagan. Carter and his staff pursued 'human rights' as opposed to 'nuclear armament' as its primary weapon against the Soviet system. . The Soviet system during the Reagan era was weak enough to die at any time. Only a president with a serious myopia would have launched a multi-billion dollar arms project by declaring weakness as a colossal threat in those circumstances. . There are many similarities between the short-sightedness of Reagan's advisors and those of President Bush. Reagan's diagnosis and proposed solution for the Soviet Union was as 'ethically correct' as Bush's current policy is for Iraq."

"Iraqi Kurds are Losing Patience"

Ilnur Cevik opined in the English language Turkish Daily News (6/8): "The Kurds feel that despite all the sacrifices they have made and the maturity they have displayed for the sake of Iraqi unity and territorial integrity, they are again being sidelined. This is unacceptable to them. They feel that their gains are being eroded. The international community and Turkey have to pay more attention to Iraqi Kurdish sensitivities. All sides must realize that if the Kurds spoil the sensitive balances in Iraq, a much more complicated situation may emerge that could be impossible to sort out. The Iraqi Kurds felt they had obtained solid assurances from their Arab counterparts about autonomy in the north and that the Kurds would be accepted as first-class citizens of Iraq. However, they are starting to see that this may not be the case. Do the Arabs realize what they are getting into? We had warned everyone that this kind of a situation may develop and that the Kurds could turn to the international community -- especially to Turkey -- and ask: What would you do if you were in our shoes?"

EDELMAN